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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

20 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Reception for Kiev Dynamo Hockey team at the Penn Garden Hotel in New York (7th Avenue and 30th Street), 10 March 1969

SOURCE : AECASSOWARY/29, from a naturalized American citizen of Ukrainian birth

1. A reception for the Dynamo hockey team of Kiev was sponsored by a number of American soccer clubs, in collaboration with the Soviet Ukrainian Mission to the U.N. in New York. Jerry YANCHIK, an American citizen of Ukrainian parentage, was among the individuals responsible for the arrangements. The reception began about 8:30 p.m., when the Dynamo team arrived with members of the Ukrainian Mission following a reception at the Mission headquarters, and lasted until about 11:30 p.m. There were about 70 guest present, among them some 30 Ukrainian emigres. The Soviet sportsmen were reserved and reluctant to participate in any conversations, particularly avoiding any political topics. FNU MARTYNYUK, head of the Soccer Alliance of the USSR, who was in charge of the Dynamo team, ventured the only independent opinion, stating that he hoped the Ukraine would in the future be able to participate on its own on the international arena, including the Olympic Games.

2. Ukrainian Mission representatives present were Leonid BOLBOTENKO [REDACTED], First Secretary; Vladimir A. KRAVETS [REDACTED], Counselor; and Vladimir I. ROMANYUK [REDACTED], a Second Secretary. BOLBOTENKO, in reply to inquiries about recent events in the Ukraine, said he knew only what he read in the Svoboda (Ukrainian-language newspaper published in Jersey City by the Ukrainian National Association) and in other emigre publications. KRAVETS was somewhat more communicative. He suggested to the source that a meeting be arranged between the source and POLYANYCHKO (Mikhail S. head of the permanent Ukrainian delegation to the U.N. [REDACTED] to talk about cultural contacts.

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3. Following the reception, KRAVETS accompanied the source to the hotel bar, where they talked until about 1:30 the following morning. KRAVETS accused the source, along with two other AECASSUARY collaborators, of being responsible for the "cooling off" period in cultural contacts between Soviet Ukrainians and Ukrainian emigres. He denied being a "hawk" on the subject of cultural contacts and that he represented a pro-Russian hard line. He said that on the contrary, he was a Ukrainian intellectual and had the interests of Ukrainian people deep in his heart. He evidently was quite unhappy about his reputation among Ukrainian emigres.

4. The source made the comment that in view of recent developments in the Ukraine and on the Soviet-Chinese border, Ukrainian emigres would have to take up dialogue with the Chinese. KRAVETS said this would be foolish and tried to convince the source that it was necessary for Russians and Ukrainians, both Soviet and emigre, to establish a united front against the danger from China. He dwelled on the dangers involved, the cruelty of the Chinese, their irresponsibility and their hostility to all peoples of the Soviet Union. The source countered that at least the Chinese would not try to make Chinese out of Ukrainians and other non-Russians whereas the Russians were stepping up their russification activities. KRAVETS insisted that in view of the latest developments between the Chinese and Russians, Ukrainians could expect more and more concessions and improvements in the Ukraine and that this situation would facilitate contacts between Soviet and emigre Ukrainians. KRAVETS said he hoped for general improvements in the field of cultural contacts, not only between Soviets and emigres but between Soviets and Americans as well. He assessed the Nixon administration as being practical and realistic. He criticized Khruschev, but denied there was a return to Stalinism in the Soviet Union. In his opinion, a balance was being sought. KRAVETS encouraged emigre travel to the Ukraine and dialogue with "competent people in Kiev." He said he favored cooperation between the Ukrainian Mission to the UN and Ukrainian emigres for the purpose of establishing and maintaining cultural contacts with Kiev, and he criticized the "many emigres" whose intentions in this regard were not sincere.

5. Note: An article entitled, "Liniv i oburen'ya trudyashchikh Ukrayny" (The Wrath and Indignation of the Workers of the Ukraine), in the 11 March 1969 issue of Literaturna Ukraine, stated that "the Ukrainian people,

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together with all the workers of our unsurpassable Fatherland, brand as shameful the provocative acts of Chinese authorities, reaching out to the sacred borders of the Soviet Union and permitting excesses against diplomatic and other official representatives of the Soviet Union in Peking. There are many meetings taking place in the republic at which workers are condemning with indignation the anti-Soviet Maoist attacks and firmly declaring that the Ukrainian nation is grouping its ranks more tightly around its own communist party and Soviet government, that it will step up its revolutionary diligence, and expand its efforts toward the premature attainment of its 5-year plan, (that it) will dedicate all its strength, knowledge and experience toward the further strengthening of the military-economic strength of the Fatherland."

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